

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Kipman Werking on June 4, 2008.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the Claims:

Claim 2, line 11, after "electronic control unit", delete "unit" and insert --unit, wherein catalyst degradation is determined based on correlation between the rate of catalyst temperature increase and a change in the air-fuel ratio of the mixture.--

Claim 4, line 10, delete "sensor." and insert -- sensor, wherein catalyst degradation is determined based on correlation between the rate of catalyst temperature increase or decrease and the change in the air-fuel ratio of the mixture.--

Claim 20, line 10, delete "changed." and insert --changed, wherein catalyst degradation is determined based on correlation between the rate of catalyst temperature increase or decrease and the change in the air-fuel ratio of the mixture.--

Claim 22, line 7, delete "changed." and insert --changed, wherein catalyst degradation is determined based on correlation between the rate of catalyst temperature increase or decrease and the change in the air-fuel ratio of the mixture.--

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The invention relates to a method and apparatus for determining reforming catalyst degradation wherein reformer catalyst degradation is based on the rate of increase or decrease or change in the detected temperature of the reforming catalyst after the fuel to air mixture is introduced to the reforming catalyst, the concept of correlating the air to fuel mixture with the rate of temperature increase or decrease of the reforming catalyst has not been taught either singularly or in combination by the prior art.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to N. Bhat whose telephone number is 571-272-1397. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 9:30AM-6:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Glenn Caldarola can be reached on 571-272-1444. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/N. Bhat/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1797